

REMARKS

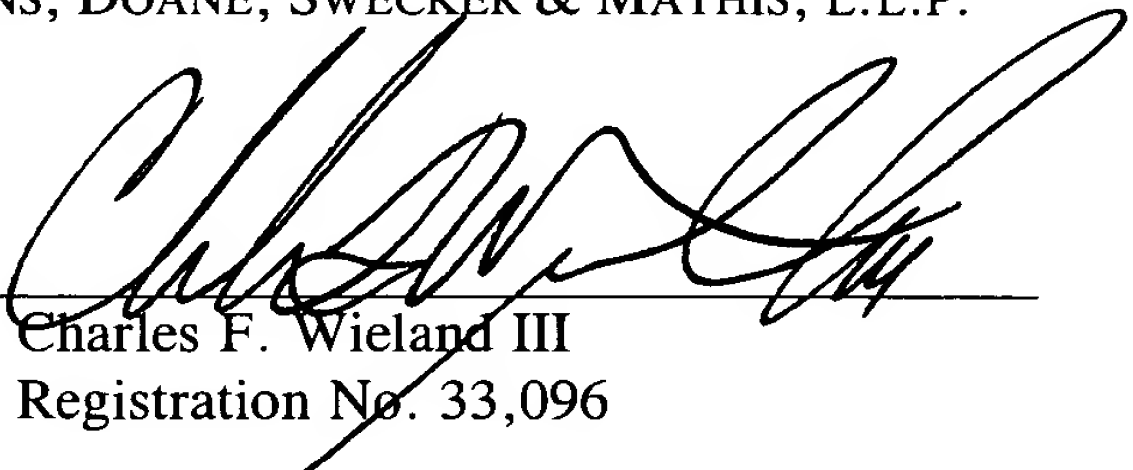
In reply to the Restriction Requirement dated September 24, 2002, Applicants elect Group I, method claims 1-15, for examination at this time. Additionally, Applicants add new independent claim 24 which is an apparatus claim that includes "means" for practicing the process. This claim is a linking claim and must be examined with the elected invention. See MPEP § 806.05(e). If it is ultimately allowed, rejoinder is required. *Id.*

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the above-captioned application. In order to facilitate allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below to address any issues that might arise.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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